
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

LIBRARIAN'S ANNUAL REPORTS

1945-46 TO 1954-55 (MISS MARJORIE SHERLOCK)

The past year has been a most oventful one for the Library. In September the resignation of Mr. D.E. Cameron brought to a close a long period of scholarly administration, notable for the wise and careful building-up of the book collection from its early beginnings to its present well-balanced state. Mr. Cameron will be greatly missed, by the students, by his colleagues of the Faculty, and by the general public throughout the province. His wide scholarship and intirate knowledge of books, and his immense kindness and interest in people made him counsellor and friend as well as Librarian, and his departure from the Library leaves a gap which can never be wholly filled.

STAFF

In September also, Mr. D.C. Appelt, Chief Cataloguer, left the University to assume his duties as Librarian at the University of Saskatchewan. He has been much missed, and the good wishes of the staff for success in his new position go with him. His place as Chief Cataloguer has been taken by Miss Helen Farquharson, formerly of Queen's University Library. Other additions to the staff are Miss Marion Hancockivell, who came to us from the University of Saskatchewan Library; Mrs. Lillian Gue, typist and assistant in the Cataloguing Department; Miss Emily Clover and Miss M.I. Grant, Education Librarians (Edmonton and Calgary), formerly librarians in the Provincial Normal Schools; and four clerical assistants, two in the Main Library and two in the Education Library (Edmonton).

QUART RS

The problem of space to accommodate readers and books has become acute. With a registration of over 2,300 students this past year, the total number of seats in the Main and various departmental reading-rooms, including the Medical and Education libraries, is 205. The approaching Fall term will increase the congestion. Work rooms for the staff are crowded and inadequate, and the preparation of periodicals for binding and the entire work of extra-mural loans are carried on under most difficult conditions at small tables set between rows of book shelves in the stack-room. All these conditions emphasize the need for a new library building.

A series of conferences was held in October with Mr. A.C. Fathers, consulting architect for the University, and plans were drawn up and completed for a new library building, which will also house the Medical and Extension Libraries.

The taking-over by the University of the teacher-training work of the province involved the inclusion in the University Library system of the former Normal School libraries in Edmonton and Calgary. These had been in temporary quarters during the war, with many of their books in storage, and the move back into their own buildings involved the packing and unpacking, the moving and shelving of thousands of volumes in the short period between the end of Summer School and the beginning of the Fall term on September 18.

To meet the heavy demand for seating space two additional reading rooms were set up, one in the Arts Building and one in the Education building, each seating about 50 readers, and supervised by student assistants. Study tables and chairs were also placed in the Men's and Women's Common rooms, and have been used continuously.

The crowding in the Law library, where it suddenly became necessary to accommodate 40 readers, forced the removal of all standing stacks and the addition of 10 extra tables and 50 chairs. This meant the moving of approximately 5,000 volumes to a room under Convention Hall, where temporary shelves were built for them. Additional shelves have also been erected in the Main stack-room and are already more than half filled.

CATALOGUING and ORDERS

The work of this department has been carried out under considerable difficulties this past year. During the first six months Mr. Appelt assumed many of the Librarian's duties, when Mr. Cameron's work with ex-service personnel became overwhelmingly heavy. For this reason a very considerable back-log of ordering and cataloguing remained for the new staff to deal with in October. The last six months saw a completely new staff in the department, and to the task of adjustment and reorganization was added the increased work resulting from the heavy registration, and the addition of the Education Libraries and several new teaching departments.

During the six months from October 1, 1945 to March 31, 1946, the department ordered 1,552 volumes; accessioned 3,186 volumes; catalogued 2,567 volumes; and labelled 1,388 volumes. In addition the current file of orders was brought up to date; book pockets and cards were put in all books in the Chemistry and Nursing reading rooms, and the recataloguing of the Education Library (Edmonton) has been begun. Plans have been made to have Miss Farquharson and an assistant spend two months this summer in Calgary to recatalogue the Education Library there.

REFERENCE and CIRCULATION

A wide variety of reference questions has been answered, bibliographies prepared and material provided on many subjects for students and faculty. A vertical file for pamphlet material has been started and indexed by subject. Over 800 current periodicals were received and recorded; back files of journals built up by ordering missing volumes and numbers; and 608 volumes prepared for binding.

The circulation of Reserve and stack books has been unusually heavy since October. Figures for the six months October 1 to March 31 are: Circulation from the stacks for home use - 6,536; Reserve books for use in the Library - 18,254; Reserve books for overnight use - 7,365. These figures are for the Main Library. The Medical and Education Libraries have also had a record circulation. 604 extra-mural loans were sent out by mail to 179 outside students during the year, and 365 volumes from the Medical library to medical practitioners in the province. Interlibrary loans: lent to other libraries - 37 volumes; borrowed from other libraries - 79 volumes.

STOCK OF BOOKS

During the year 2,167 volumes were added by purchase and 295 by gift, giving us at March 31, 1946 a total of 23,128 accessioned volumes. In addition there are about 13,000 volumes in the Education Library (Edmonton) and some 10,000 volumes in the Education Library (Calgary) which have yet to be catalogued, giving a total in the University Library system of approximately 106,000 volumes.

GIFTS

The past year many interesting and important gifts have been received. I may mention especially:

A grant of \$200 from the College of Physicians and Surgeons for the purchase of books for the Medical Library;

A further donation of \$100 from Mr. Howden R. Horner for the Frank Roth Horner Memorial Fund for the purchase of books on pharmacy;

A grant of \$102.60 from the James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation for the purchase of a collection of books on arc welding;

454.62
A grant from the Philosophical Society of the University for the purchase of books;

From Mr. W.S. Field, Edmonton, 25 volumes of the Canadian Bankruptcy Reports for the Law Library;

From Mr. G.H. Houston, Olds, Alberta, the Transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers, 1898-1936;

From Mrs. Catherine Boomer, Vancouver, B.C., a valuable collection of books on Chemical engineering from the Estate of the late Dr. Edward Herbert Boomer;

From Mrs. H.H. Chiselin, Edmonton, a collection of books on philosophy, formerly the property of her late son, Mr. Richard Chiselin;

From Mr. G.M. Smith, of the Department of History, a collection of books on history and current literature;

From the University of Western Ontario, 11 volumes of the Publications of the Parker Society;

From Mr. R.P. Pettipiece, Vancouver, B.C., the two earliest volumes of the South Edmonton News, for 1894-95;

From the Estate of the late T.H. Wears, Calgary, a file of Shakespeare documents and papers;

From Mr. A. Turner Bone, Ottawa, a collection of some 50 or 60 volumes of modern French literature;

Also gifts to the Library from: The Canadian Bankers' Association; Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Irwin, Edmonton; Carnegie endowment for international peace; Carnegie Institution of Washington; Mrs. Barbara Villy Cornack, Alix, Alberta; Capt. R.A. Spencer, Montreal; Mr. L. Leck, Youngstown, Alberta; Canadian Committee on modern languages; Mr. J.W. Hazill, Edmonton; and numerous individual items all of which have been duly acknowledged.

The Librarian wishes to thank all the members of the Library staff for their loyalty and patience through this difficult period of adjustment, and for their unfailing enthusiasm and devotion which have made it possible to carry on the work of the library at a high level in spite of difficulties.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Sherlock.
LIBRARIAN.

